

# energetic self-starter /2/ raising the bar

Benson's positive, \_\_\_\_\_ attitude has earned him not only the \_\_\_\_\_ of his coworkers, but of their family members, as well. "My Howie has done his best in that thankless job for 17 years, and he has a very stressful position. It was bad enough before. The poor man, he \_\_\_\_\_ come home and have to sit in front of the TV for hours just to let off steam," said Iris Petersen, wife of **longtime Williams & Broderick employee Howard Petersen**. "But ever since this new character showed up, he stays up nights unable to sleep, thinking about how this kid is \_\_\_\_\_ for his job. We don't have a lot of savings. It's hard for a man his age to start over in a new career. He can't digest his food, and he's been drinking more, too. I don't know who this Timothy Benson person thinks he is, but he must enjoy making a good man suffer. If you ask me, he's some sort of a monster to torment my husband this way."

Benson insists his positive, can-do \_\_\_\_\_ not only benefits the company directly, but is also **a great way to motivate other staff members**. "By raising the bar and doing the best job I can," Benson said, "I show my co-workers that they, too, can do their jobs better. And by \_\_\_\_\_ a good example for management, I show the top brass that they can expect more out of their other employees, as well. That \_\_\_\_\_, everybody wins."

Benson's co-workers agreed with his higher-expectations theory. "If that \_\_\_\_\_ bastard doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ it off, **those greedy asses in management** are going to get the idea into their evil pea-brains that all of us should work just as hard as him," Richelieu said. "I hate him. One of these days, a couple of fellows ought to put on ski masks, corner him in the parking garage some night when he's just \_\_\_\_\_ in five hours overtime working \_\_\_\_\_, and work the overachieving little bastard over with a couple of goddamn **baseball bats**." "My ulcers were bad enough before he showed up," Richelieu added, "but that smug \_\_\_\_\_ is going to drive me to the grave."

Benson, however, remains optimistic about his future at Williams & Broderick, saying he is "eagerly looking forward" to his first quarterly employee evaluation. "**The sky's the limit!**" Benson said. "\_\_\_\_\_ out, Williams & Broderick, there's a new kid in town! Just think: In five to ten years, who knows where I might be in this company?" Benson is expected to \_\_\_\_\_ out into suicidal depression in approximately one-fourth that time.

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